

## PROFILE

## Heber Paints a Pretty Picture

Local Art Galleries Open Doors for All to See

Jean Croasmun, Courier Staff

It's not that the Heber Valley is completely devoid of art; most of it is just very well hidden. But some local gallery owners would like to see that change.

Shosho Zippich, owner of Wildwood Design Gallery in Midway is one such gallery owner. She has been running a small gallery behind her house for over 12 years now and decided it would be fun to shake up the state of Heber Valley art galleries a little. Zippich came up with the idea of a gallery stroll, and convinced four other area galleries to join in.

"It's time to build awareness," said Zippich, who, along with Midway's Edelweiss Gallery, and Robert Duncan Studio, and Heber's House of Fine Art and Art of the Earth, will host the September 18 stroll. "Right now we get a lot of people from the valley coming up," said Zippich, but she would like to see more locals walk through. That's where the idea of the Heber Valley Fall Gallery Stroll came from.

On Saturday, September 18, the five Heber and Midway art galleries will host the first-ever Heber Valley Fall





Gallery Stroll. From 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., residents are invited to browse the unique collections and personalities of each gallery-kind of like an open house for art.

"It's an introduction to art for people who aren't too familiar with us," says Zipprich. "It gives the participant a chance to casually see what we're about. No pressure."

Zipprich is quick to admit that sometimes galleries in the area can seem a bit intimidating to the newcomer. Her own gallery is accessed via her long driveway and Zipprich believes that the odd location makes people uncomfortable and sometimes keeps them away.

While gallery strolls are popular back east, they're not overly abundant in Wasatch County. Salt Lake galleries sponsor regular strolls and Park City has them on occasion, too. But the Heber Valley Fall Gallery Stroll is the first of

its kind here.

Zipprich wants to see that change, too. The Heber Valley Fall Gallery Stroll is a test, one that will ultimately tell Zipprich and the other gallery owners if they should pull Heber's art world out from hiding on a monthly basis, just twice a year, or never speak a word of the event again.

While the gallery stroll has no starting and stopping point, the galleries have arranged themselves in a sort of order to make the trip from gallery to gallery a little simpler. Starting at the north end of Heber is the House of Fine Art at 310 N. Main Street. Owner Doug Lee's

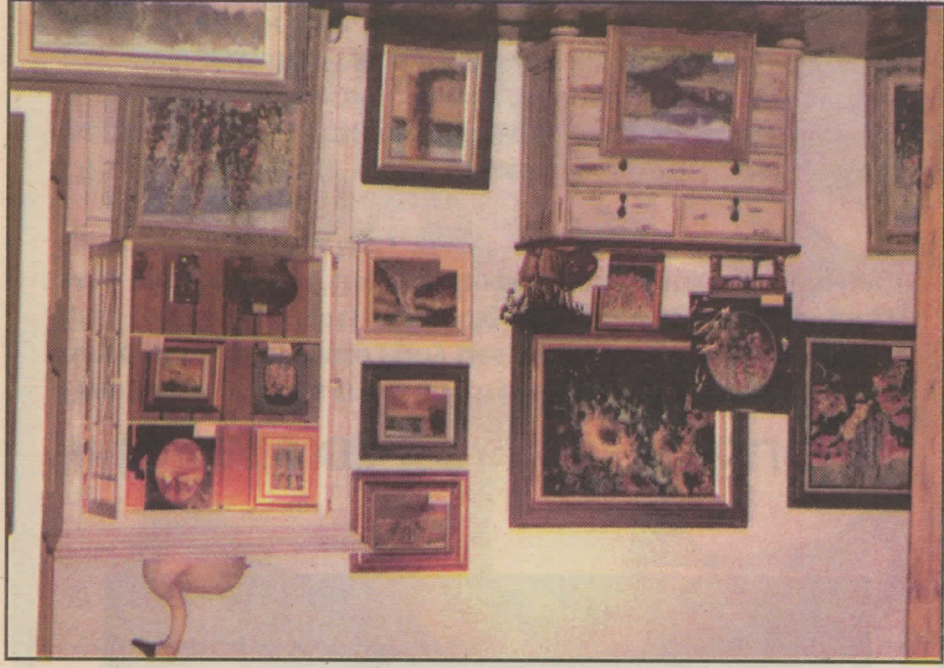
## Robert Duncan Studio



## Art of the Earth



## Edelweiss



shop has been a staple on Heber's Main Street for 28 years, featuring Lee's own paintings, plus offerings from other local artists. House of Fine Art also carries frames, sheet music and gifts.

Lee claims to have saved the old brick two-story house from eminent destruction when he opened his studio and gallery there in the early 1970s. Now the house holds a huge collection of locally-inspired acrylic paintings on the main floor and a more abstract collection upstairs.

Further down the road, in Heber's Old Town Village on 100 South, just across the railroad tracks, is Art of the Earth-

the newest of the five galleries on the stroll. Owner Lynette Livingston believes in art for Everyone. And her gallery reflects that.

"The gallery focuses on local and student artists," says Livingston of her six-month old shop. "Affordable original artwork," is how Livingston bills her gallery's collection.

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